

MSG 049 - RED FD05 PAYLOAD SUMMARY

FREESTAR

The MEIDEX Sprite observations during FD04 proved highly successful. The first images of a Sprite and an ELVE by a calibrated instrument in space were captured. The presence of dust however remains elusive. Analysis of SOLSE and LORE data obtained after the limb calibration operations showed both the SOLSE and LORE instruments are performing nominally. Three balloon launches were performed during the calibration to provide correlative data. CVX-2 completed its first critical period successfully. The critical temperature was found to within 0.1 mK. The data compares favorably with the CVX-1 Flight data from 1997. SOLCON is continuing solar observations during FD05. LPT is also performing nominally and will be conducting several periods of Space Network comm during FD05.

SPACEHAB

SPACEHAB subsystem operational status remains unchanged. Aside from the slightly degraded KU Channel 2 performance that we have experienced since the beginning of the flight, all systems are nominal.

SPACEHAB payloads generally continue to perform well, and although there has been some replanning of activities, operations are back on schedule. MSTRS is experiencing commanding and telemetry difficulties, and StarNav data has been sub-optimal due to KU Channel 2 problems, but the majority of the experiments are proceeding well.

Specific payload highlights so far include:

Despite earlier problems with the KU Forward link which prevented the performance of LSP1 as scheduled, all 4 of the currently scheduled CM2 LSP runs have been accomplished, and LSP is back on schedule per the original timeline. Many thanks to the crew for their hard work in recovering so quickly! The CM2 science team is excited about the results obtained thus far.

MSTRS is developing a troubleshooting plan for their Commanding/Telemetry problem, and we expect that this plan will be remotely implemented during RED FD05. We'll keep you posted on our progress.

The AST team is very pleased with the video showing experiment developments to date. The plants appear healthy, and the data looks good.

The Biopack team continues to express their delight with the progress of the Biopack experiments, and extend kudos to Willie and KC for their flawless performance of yesterday's complex activities.

The MGM team is thrilled with the progress of their activities. They are especially excited with the results of MGM-4, obtained via a revised reform procedure. They believe that the reformed specimen is "nearly perfect", and want to thank Mike and KC for responding quickly in implementing the new reform procedure.

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